



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 016866-001503

On 1-28-05

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Lyle Alexander

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

T. William Hutchens et al.

Application No.: 09/123,253

Filed: July 27, 1998

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS  
FOR THE DESORPTION AND  
IONIZATION OF ANALYTES

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 5339

Examiner: Lyle Alexander

Technology Center/Art Unit: 1743

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed October 1, 2004, please enter the following amendments and remarks. A Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") and a petition for a one month extension of time accompany this response.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.